

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
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STAT 4. (Unclassified - GLC) In response to a request relayed to us through the Secretary of Defense and Tom Latimer, DOD, and after consultation with Marshall Wright, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, [] OCI, and I talked by telephone with Senator Bennett Johnston (D., La.) and two members of his staff (Charles McBride, his Administrative Assistant, and Paul Haygood) late in the evening. The Senator has been considering a trip to the Middle East in connection with his interest in the energy crisis and wanted to talk to us before making a final decision on whether to go. His proposed itinerary would include stops in Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Israel, Algeria, and Libya.

STAT [] advised the Senator about the possible personal risks in these areas, pointing out the possibility of bombings in Israel. The Senator said he would find it difficult to visit the Arab countries if he decided not to go to Israel, but he was concerned about the risk factor there. He said he would probably make a decision tonight as to whether he would cancel his trip. (We learned later that the Senator did decide to cancel his trip, at least for the present.)

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